SAYS JFK DEATH 'SOLVED' S-J- 2/25/67

Only Escape for Plotters Suicide, Garrison Claims

District Attorney Jim Garrison says that he has "solved" the Kennedy assassination "plot" and that death is the only escape for those he believes are involved.

Garrison claims that his office discovered the answers he was seeking "weeks ago" and that now he and his staff are working to build air-tight cases against the individuals involved.

ALTHOUGH the district attorney says that arrests are "months away," he said yesterday: "The only way they are going to get away from us is to kill themselves."

Garrison said that he would not say they had solved the Kennedy murder unless he had evidence "beyond a shadow of a doubt."

He went on to say: "We know the key individuals, the cities involved and how it was done."

YESTERDAY was the first time Garrison used the word solved.

Garrison's investigation into circumstances surrounding President Kennedy's murder was revealed by The States-Item in a story Feb. 17. The paper obtained from public records a list of agents, trips they made and money spent in seeking clues.

In order to keep reporters from checking future trips, Garrison got a $2,500 bank loan 48 hours after the story appeared.

YESTERDAY a group of 50 New Orleans citizens, led by Willard E. Robertson, Joseph M. Rault Jr. and Cecil H. Shilstone, met at the Petroleum Club and pledged $100 each a month at least for three months.

This will allow Garrison to investigate the posibility of a plot without accounting publicly for funds.

A reporter, joking with Garrison, asked, "Are you expecting a contribution from the Central Intelligence Agency?"

GARRISON laughed and replied, "No, but I'm expecting some from the FBI."

Garrison admitted for the first time he had accepted some aid from Life Magazine in developing his case. "But our office initiated the investigation," he said.

He told newsmen on his "word of honor" he will give them the story when arrests are made. "But it may be

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months away. We want to get jury verdicts, and we are confident we will."

MEANWHILE, a Baton Rouge insurance salesman claimed that David William Ferrie told him about a month before Mr. Kennedy's death, "We will get him and it won't be long."

Perry Raymond Russo, 25, was a student at Loyola University here when he knew Ferrie. He said that the assassination of a president was discussed several times by Ferrie in general conversation.

Russo said on two occasions he saw Ferrie in the company of Spanish-speaking persons dressed in green fatigue uniforms and helmets.

Russo said he met Ferrie through a friend who was a member of the Civil Air Patrol.

THE FRIEND told Russo he was training with Ferrie in jungle warfare "to help bring about more democratic government."

The friend's family had contacted Russo in an effort to break "Ferrie's hold on their son."

Ferrie, who was called a central figure in the investigation by Garrison, was found dead Wednesday in his apartment at 3330 Louisiana ave. pkwy.

He died of a ruptured aneurysm, a condition which could have been aggravated by extreme anxiety and a resulting rise in blood pressure.

Suspicion that he committed suicide was not confirmed by anatomical or toxicological tests.

IN VIENNA, Mark Lane, author of "Rush to Judgment," said today he offered the material of his investigation of President Kennedy's assassination to Garrison.

Lane said he made the offer in a telegram to the district attorney two days ago.

The author said he will meet with Garrison when he returns to the United States —in about two to three weeks.

Lane, who is in Vienna to discuss a German translation of his book, said, "Garrison is the first who has seriously tried to find out the truth officially."